



UsCC Subcommittees

FACT SHEET



The term Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) refers to communities historically underserved, unserved, and inappropriately served, in terms of mental health services. UsCC Subcommittees were developed by Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to reduce cultural and ethnic disparities in access to care and service delivery.

There are seven (7) UsCC Subcommittees that were developed: African/African American (AAA); American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN); Asian Pacific Islander (API); Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physical Disabilities; Eastern European/Middle Eastern (EE/ME); Latino; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S).

Did You Know?

The AAA Subcommittee

African Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population. (Human Service Office of Minority Health)

The AAA UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of a radio media campaign that provided mental health education and culturally sensitive information to the African American community in Los Angeles (LA) County.

The AI/AN Subcommittee

Depression affects 1 out of 4 Native Americans. (SAMHSA)

The AI/AN UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of mental health stigma reduction television and radio public service announcements that aired for nine weeks in the local media of LA County.

The API Subcommittee

Among females from all racial backgrounds between the ages of 65 and 84, Asian Americans had the highest suicide rate. (National Vital Statistics 2007)

The API UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of a peer and family advocate project that provided workshops about the signs and symptoms of mental health illness in the following languages:

- Khmer
- Hindi
- Samoan
- Vietnamese
- Chinese
- Korean

The Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physical Disabilities Subcommittee

30% of those with a long term physical condition also experience a mental health problem. (Shaw Mind Foundation)

The Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee was established in January 2018 to address the mental health needs of these underserved communities.

The EE/ME Subcommittee

In the Armenian community, mental health stigma is very high and many misconceptions exist about people with mental illness. In a survey conducted among members of the Armenian community, 63% of the respondents indicated that people who suffer from a mental health condition are violent and 56% stated that they will not be able to maintain a friendship with someone with a mental health problem. (British Journal of General Practice 2005)

The EE/ME UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of a mental health talk show in the Armenian language to reduce stigma and to increase awareness about the signs and symptoms of mental illness. As a result, there was a 500% increase in calls from Armenian community members to the LACDMH Access Line to seek services and information.

The Latino Subcommittee

Only 20% of Latinos with symptoms of a psychological disorder talk to a doctor about their mental health concerns. (2001 Surgeon General's report)

The Latino UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of a television, radio, and bus advertising campaign in Spanish that reached millions of Latino viewers in LA County.

The LGBTQI2-S Subcommittee

LGBTQI2-S individuals are almost three times more likely than others to experience a mental health problem. (NAMI)

The LGBTQI2-S UsCC Subcommittee recommended the development of the first LGBTQI2-S Mental Health Conference hosted by LACDMH in June 2018.

For more information contact:

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